

the Khojaly Massacre twenty-five years ago. As Azerbaijanis in all parts of the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, let us commit ourselves to supporting non-violent efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and of reforms that promote peace and stability throughout the Southern Caucasus region.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRIANNE SANCHEZ

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brianne Sanchez for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Brianne is the Community Relations Manager at Principal Financial Group, and is very active in the young professional's community in Des Moines. She was honored as the 2015 YPC Amy Jennings YP Impact Award winner, and co-founded the Des Moines Chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. Brianne enjoys spending time with her husband Joe and children Emmett and Eileen, especially going for family bike rides.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brianne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brianne on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### OBSERVING MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of February as National Marfan Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are living with Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders.

Marfan syndrome is a rare genetic condition. About 1 in 5,000 Americans carries a mutation in a gene called fibrillin-1 which results in an overproduction of a protein called transforming growth factor beta or TGFB. The in-

creased TGFB impacts connective tissue and since connective tissue is found throughout the body, Marfan syndrome features can manifest throughout the body. Patients often have disproportionately long limbs, a protruding or indented chest bone, curved spine, and loose joints. However, it is not the outward signs that concern Marfan syndrome patients, but the effects the condition has on the internal systems of the body. Most notably, in Marfan patients the large artery, known as the aorta, which carries blood away from the heart, is weakened and prone to enlargement and potentially fatal rupture.

An early and accurate diagnosis, regular monitoring, and, in some cases, therapies or medical interventions are necessary to prevent cardiac events. This is why I believe it is important to develop a program to support, assist, and encourage states to incorporate Marfan syndrome testing into their sports screening criteria for at-risk young athletes. Few states include Marfan syndrome testing in their sports screening for high school athletes which leads to Marfan syndrome-related thoracic aortic aneurysm and dissection claiming the lives of young athletes across the country each year.

I am proud to have come to know the nation's foremost organization working to support the Marfan community, the Marfan Foundation, through their strong advocacy work on Capitol Hill. The Foundation was founded in 1981 and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals affected by Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders by advancing research, raising awareness, and providing support.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and reflect on the work that needs to be done to ensure that patients with rare conditions can expect to see sustained and meaningful improvements in their health and healthcare over the next 30 years. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize National Marfan Awareness Month.

#### RECOGNIZING LONDON ROBBERSON

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor McKamy Middle School student London Roberson for her dedication and commitment to helping those affected by heart disease. The 13 year old, who started fundraising in kindergarten, has raised an astounding \$55,000 for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart.

London's passion for helping those affected by heart disease started at a young age. After losing a grandfather to a heart attack and witnessing several family members struggle with cardiovascular issues, London jumped into action and began fundraising for the American Heart Association. This month, London and the American Heart Association have organized a students versus teachers basketball game at her Flower Mound middle school that will not only raise funds for those in need, but will increase awareness of this devastating disease.

London's compassion for those suffering from heart disease and her commitment to or-

ganizing creative and fun ways to raise funds and increase awareness is inspirational and I am proud to represent her and McKamy Middle School in the United States House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY SHAW

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Courtney Shaw for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Courtney is a Senior Public Relations Account Manager at Strategic America, where she develops, manages and oversees public relations and marketing campaigns for clients. She also serves as vice president of the Health Birth Day/Count the Kicks Campaign and Public Relations Chair of Central Iowa Public Relations Society of America. She also devotes her time at the Winterset Food Pantry, Pinky Swear campaign, and as a professional advisor at Drake University and Simpson College. Courtney and her husband Bret have three young sons, Beck, Barrett and Blaine.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Courtney in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Courtney on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### CONGRATULATING ALEXION ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago, in New Haven's Science Park, in an incubator space dedicated to research and development in the biotech industry, Dr. Leonard Bell celebrated the opening of Alexion Pharmaceuticals. From that day forward, Alexion has strived to meet its mission, to develop and deliver life-transforming therapies for patients with devastating and rare diseases.

Alexion is one of New Haven and Connecticut's greatest biotech success stories. In less than a decade, the company grew far beyond the incubator space of Science Park, first moving to new facilities in Cheshire, opening a bio-manufacturing facility in Rhode Island and establishing operations in Europe. I am proud to say that just last year we celebrated the return of Alexion's global headquarters to New Haven where they continue their good work in a new state-of-the-art facility that is anchor to an entire downtown revitalization effort.

Alexion is special in many ways, but what makes them most unique is their commitment to patients who are all too often invisible to others. Alexion is dedicated to the development of drugs and therapies for some of the most rare diseases in the world, extending hope to patients and families who have nowhere else to turn.

Alexion first found success with the development of Soliris, the world's first approved terminal complement inhibitor. Today, Soliris is approved in nearly 50 countries for the treatment of patients with paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) and in more than 40 countries for the treatment of patients with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS), two life-threatening, ultra-rare disorders caused by uncontrolled complement activation. In more recent years, Alexion's metabolic franchise has grown to include two highly innovative enzyme replacement therapies for patients with life-threatening and ultra-rare disorders: Strensiq is approved for patients with hypophosphatasia (HPP) and Kanuma is approved for patients with lysosomal acid lipase deficiency.

Patients with these life-threatening diseases have no effective treatment options, and they and their families suffer with little hope. Alexion's goal has and continues to be to deliver medical breakthroughs where none currently exist. They are driven because they know people's lives depend on their work.

Today, Alexion employs nearly 3,000 people around the world, serving patients in 50 countries. From that small incubator space in Science Park, Alexion has emerged as one of the world's leading rare disease companies, advancing the most robust rare disease pipeline in the biotech industry. I was proud to stand with Dr. Bell as Alexion opened its doors and I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Alexion Pharmaceuticals as they celebrate this remarkable milestone. Happy 25th Anniversary and best wishes for continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN "GIDDY UP" BUNCH

#### HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain John "Giddy Up" Bunch, a Southwest Floridian and a Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam. As the owner of GiddyUp Fishing Charters in St. James City, Florida, Captain Bunch combined his love for fishing with his love for our country when he invited a group of servicemen fishing out of gratitude for their

service. This inspired him to dedicate his time to giving back to our veterans, which he did by founding Operation Open Arms.

The organization's mission is to recruit people and businesses that are willing to donate their services and support to troops on leave, or those returning home, to give them a much-needed respite from their service. Since 2005, with over 300 volunteers supporting the program, Operation Open Arms has provided joy to over 3,000 servicemen and women and their families by providing services including vacations, weddings, fishing trips, counseling programs and funeral funds, totaling over \$13 million in benefits.

Captain Bunch was awarded the status of Honorary Life Member of American Legion Post 135 in Naples, Florida, and received the Outstanding Civilian Service Award at the Chief of Staff of the Army Salute last September, further exemplifying his dedication to making Operation Open Arms a success. His generosity and patriotism are an inspiration to us all.

#### TRIBUTE TO BETH SHELTON

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Beth Shelton for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Beth is the CEO of Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa, where she provides leadership and strategic direction for all staff and volunteers in portions of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Her extensive experience has helped ensure the Girl Scouts remains a strong organization, and her work in innovation and fundraising has earned her a reputation of hard work and respect. Outside of her work with the Girl Scouts, Beth is a Rotary member, is involved in various philanthropic endeavors, and coaches youth basketball and softball. She lives in Des Moines with her husband Mark, two daughters, Grace and Millie, and a black lab, Samson.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Beth in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Beth on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 100, 101 and 102 on Monday, February 27, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea roll call votes 100 and 102, and Nay on roll call vote 101.

#### HONORING THE GREATER NEW HAVEN NAACP ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2017*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Greater New Haven NAACP as they mark their centennial anniversary, a remarkable milestone for this tremendous organization.

Over the course of its 100-year history, the Greater New Haven NAACP has been an invaluable resource for our community. Serving fourteen towns, they are constantly working to bring awareness to a variety of issues. From racial disparities in employment, housing, transportation, health, law enforcement and education, their fight for justice has been tireless.

They have strived to continually educate, impact and engage our community by sponsoring events like an annual health expo, celebrating the contributions of community members at their annual Freedom Fund dinner and organizing voter registration and turn-out programs. Their efforts have gone a long way toward making sure that all of our community members enjoy equal opportunity.

Though inequality and injustice continue to challenge our society, it is organizations like the Greater New Haven NAACP who help us all to meet overcome those challenges. It is through the commitment of their leadership and their members that they are ensuring a promising future for our families, our children, and our communities.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks and appreciation to the leadership of the Greater New Haven NAACP for their outstanding vision. It has been a privilege to work with them over my tenure in Congress.

As the voice of our African-American community, the Greater New Haven NAACP has improved countless lives. Today, as we mark their 100th Anniversary, we also renew our commitment to those ideals upon which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded, the causes of social justice and equality, the importance of community and public service, and the hope for a better tomorrow. I am honored to stand today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Greater New Haven NAACP on their centennial anniversary. As we say in Italian, Cent'Anni to another 100 years.